

# The SLEGS beamline of SSRF\*

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The Shanghai Laser Electron Gamma Source(SLEGS, located in BL03SSID) beamline at Shanghai Synchrotron Radiation Facility(SSRF) is a Laser Compton Scattering(LCS) gamma source, for investigating nuclear structure, which is demanded extensively in the fields of nuclear astrophysics, nuclear cluster structure, polarization physics, nuclear energy and so on. The beamline is based on the inverse Compton scattering of 10640 nm photons on 3.5 GeV electrons and a gamma source with variable energy by changing the scattering angle from 20 degree to 160 degree.  $\gamma$ -rays of 0.25-21.1 MeV can be extracted by the scheme consisting of interaction chamber, coarse collimator, fine collimator and attenuator. The maximum photon flux for 180 degree about  $10^7$  photons/s at the target at 21.7 MeV, with a beam size of 3 mm diameter. The beamline is equipped with four types of spectrometers for experiments in  $(\gamma, \gamma')$ ,  $(\gamma, n)$  and  $(\gamma, p/\alpha)$ . At present, Nuclear Resonance Fluorescence (NRF) spectrometer, Flat Efficiency neutron Detector (FED) spectrometer, Neutron Time-Of-Flight (TOF) spectrometer and Light Charged Particle (LCP) spectrometer methods have been developed.

Keywords: Shanghai Synchrotron Radiation Facility, SLEGS, nuclear astrophysics, nuclear structure

## I. INTRODUCTION

In the past few decades,  $\gamma$ -photon beams are steadily developing and have optimized beam properties, which can be used for research and applications. The past and future development of photon sources can generally be divided into five generations [1]. The first generation of photon sources utilized various artificially induced  $\gamma$ -radioactivity of various excited nuclei, such as  $^{137}\text{Cs}$ ,  $^{60}\text{Co}$ ,  $^{27}\text{Al}(p, \gamma)^{28}\text{Si}$ , and so on. Such sources are mainly used for detector calibration and irradiation experiments. The energy of this type of photon source is fixed.

The second generation MeV range photon source is generated by bremsstrahlung or positron annihilation. A very simple way to produce a strong photon bath with a continuous energy distribution is electron bremsstrahlung. Nowadays, the energy spectra of bremsstrahlung photons are usually calculated using different Monte Carlo simulation codes [2-4]. The main difficulty is to extract bremsstrahlung flux close to the end energy of the spectrum. The energy of the electron beam and its fluctuations play a decisive role. Therefore, careful monitoring of the energy of the electron beam is mandatory for many experiments. The bremsstrahlung  $\gamma$ -photon source adjusts the maximum gamma energy by adjusting the energy of the incident electron. It either provides broad-band  $\gamma$ -photon or low-intensity beams with some energy resolution through the method of electron energy-tagging. These sources have greatly expanded the field of photonuclear science in the past.

The Darmstadt High Intensity Photon Device (DHIPS) uses a continuous wave electron beam to generate photon beams, typically with maximum energies up to 10 MeV and currents up to 60  $\mu\text{A}$  [5]. The  $\gamma$ ELBE facilities use superconducting continuous electron linear accelerators with a current

up to 1 mA and a maximum energy of 13 MeV to produce a bremsstrahlung beam [3]. At the Flerov Laboratory of Nuclear Reactions of the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna, Russia, the Bremsstrahlung facility of the MT-25 microtron delivers presently an electron beam in the energy range from 10 to 25 MeV with an average electron current of up to 20  $\mu\text{A}$  [6]. The recently installed S band accelerator PRISM at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in Livermore, CA, USA, operates with an electron energy between 15 and 25 MeV and currents up to 30  $\mu\text{A}$  [7]. At the High Voltage Research Laboratory (HVRL) of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), an electron accelerator with energy up to about 3.5 MeV and currents in the 100  $\mu\text{A}$  range can be used for Nuclear Resonance Fluorescence experiments [8]. The NSC KIPT in Kharkov, Ukraine operates an S-band e-linac (LUE-40) which can be used for photoactivation experiments in the energy range between about 35 and 95 MeV with the typical average electron current amounts to 6  $\mu\text{A}$  [9]. At Idaho State University, USA, four e-linacs with maximum electron energies up to 40 MeV is utilized to generate the bremsstrahlung beam [10]. The maximum electron current is between 85 and 240  $\mu\text{A}$ .

Due to the provision of information about the energy of the generated bremsstrahlung photons by the technique of tagged photons, the photon nuclear reaction caused by bremsstrahlung photons can determine the energy-resolved reaction cross sections. The photon tagger NEPTUN at the S-DALINAC at the TU Darmstadt covers photon energies from below the particle emitting threshold to above the IVGDR region for photon scattering and total photoabsorption experiments which determine the complete dipole strength [11].

At present, the most common sources are the third generation which are the scattering of electrons in synchrotrons or storage rings using the principle of laser Compton backscattering. The High Intensity  $\gamma$ -Ray Source (HI $\gamma$ S) facility has been the most productive example in the past [12, 13]. It is operated by the Triangle Universities Nuclear Laboratory at the Duke University, and can provide nearly mono-energetic polarized gamma ray beams with an energy range of 1 to 100 MeV, with a maximum total intensity of approximately

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74  $3 \times 10^{10}$  photons/s near 10 MeV. The maximum gamma ray  
 75 energy of the laser Compton scattering gamma-ray source in  
 76 the UVSOR-III storage ring is 5403 keV, and the total avail-  
 77 able flux is  $1 \times 10^7$  photons/s, sufficient for basic research on  
 78 non-destructive three-dimensional isotopes [14]

79 Compared to existing facilities, some new LCB facilities  
 80 with further improved parameters have been announced to be  
 81 put into operation in the coming years. As an example, the  
 82 Variable Energy Gamma-Ray System (VEGA) at the interna-  
 83 tional research center Extreme Light Infrastructure-Nuclear  
 84 Physicas (ELI-NP) in Romania, will be briefly introduced.  
 85 By selecting one of the two interacting lasers and adjusting  
 86 the electron energy in the storage ring accordingly, the en-  
 87 ergy range of the generated photon beam can continuously  
 88 vary between 1 and 20 MeV. For Compton backscattered laser  
 89 photons, a small electron beam emittance produces a small  
 90 bandwidth of approximately or even less than 0.5%. The to-  
 91 tal photon flux will be greater than  $10^{11}$  photons/s, and the  
 92 time-averaged spectral intensity of collimation at the maxi-  
 93 mum position will be greater than  $5 \times 10^3$  photons per second  
 94 and eV [1].

95 There are two main ways to increase beam intensities  
 96 in the fourth generation gamma source. One method to  
 97 achieve higher intensity is based on the multi-bunch multi-  
 98 pulse concept proposed by Chris Barty and coworkers, where  
 99 a laser beam collides with an electron microbeam with small  
 100 temporal spacing [1]. Another method is a superconduct-  
 101 ing radio-frequency (SRF) and superconducting multi-turn  
 102 energy-recovery linac (ERL). In fact, the international ERL  
 103 community has recently published a corresponding supercon-  
 104 ducting multi-turn energy-recovery linac conceptional design  
 105 report [15]. An SRF-ERL would generate a continuous elec-  
 106 tron beam with extremely low emittance and very high cur-  
 107 rent, which can generate LCB photon beams with further re-  
 108 duced bandwidth (down to the per mille range) and higher  
 109 intensity.

110 The relatively small cross-section of Compton scatter-  
 111 ing within the barn range defines a limitation on the maxi-  
 112 mum photon flux that can be obtained from laser Compton  
 113 backscattering devices. A few years ago, a principle was pro-  
 114 posed to overcome this limitation, which is currently known  
 115 as the fifth generation gamma source of the ‘‘Gamma Factory  
 116 at CERN’’ [16, 17]. This idea is to use a partially stripped  
 117 ultra-relativistic ion beam, which undergo atomic transitions  
 118 after resonant absorption of laser photons. Because the en-  
 119 ergy of the emitted photons is boosted by one factor, up to  
 120 four times the square of the Lorentz factor of the particle  
 121 beam, this means that the energy range of the tunable photon  
 122 beam at LHC is approximately 1-400 MeV. Compared to the  
 123 laser Compton scattering on the point-like electron, the cross-  
 124 section of laser photon absorption is much larger (within the  
 125 Gbarn range), thus achieving unprecedented  $\gamma$  beam inten-  
 126 sity. Many possible applications have been discussed, such as  
 127 referring to references [18, 19].

128 The SLEGS, belonging to the third-generation gamma  
 129 source, is one of the Phase II beamline at Shanghai Synchron-  
 130 tron Radiation Facility (SSRF), a third generation light source  
 131 with a 3.5 GeV storage ring running 200 mA electron beam

132 current in the top-up injection mode [20–28].

133 Photon-induced nuclear reactions with energies higher than  
 134 the particle binding energy are capable of obtaining informa-  
 135 tion on the electromagnetic decay strength of Giant Dipole  
 136 Resonance (GDR) with multipole selectivity and the coupling  
 137 of GDR to low-frequency collective modes [29–32]. The  
 138 Pygmy Dipole Resonance(PDR) can be used to understand-  
 139 ing the entire E1 response of nuclei and the nuclear symme-  
 140 try energy in the Equation Of State (EOS) for nuclear mat-  
 141 ter [33, 34]. Magnetic dipole resonance(MDR) above neutron  
 142 threshold with PDR around neutron threshold constitute extra  
 143 strengths of the low energy  $\gamma$ -ray strength function [35, 36].  
 144 Dedicated for GDR,PDR and MDR measurement, the con-  
 145 struction of SLEGS was completed in December 2021 and  
 146 has been opened to users since September 2023 [37]. After  
 147 experts of SSRF review, the first users from domestic univer-  
 148 sities and research institutes will successively carry out ex-  
 149 perimental research on photonuclear reactions and photon ac-  
 150 tivation analysis(PAA). In this paper, we present a review on  
 151 the facilities and experimental methods of the SLEGS beam-  
 152 line.

## 153 II. THE BEAMLINE

### 154 A. The gamma source

155 The main SLEGS beamline components that generate  
 156 gamma rays include the interaction chamber, the multi-  
 157 function chamber, and the CO2 laser [38]. Laser generates  
 158 back-scattered gamma energy of 21.7 MeV through the multi-  
 159 function chamber. Laser can produce gamma rays with a  
 160 Compton edge energy range of 0.66-21.1 MeV from 20 de-  
 161 gree to 160 degree through the interaction chamber in the  
 162 slant scattering mode. The energy of gamma is continuously  
 163 adjustable by changing the scattering angle between laser and  
 164 electron.

165 The frequency of the SLEGS gamma source is determined  
 166 by the frequency of the laser, which is 1kHz. Therefore, the  
 167 time distribution of laser gamma within a millisecond time  
 168 cycle can be obtained by utilizing the time of gamma events,  
 169 as shown in Fig. 1 (a). It is consistent with the distribution  
 170 of laser within a clock cycle. Laser gamma events and back-  
 171 ground gamma events can be distinguished based on time dis-  
 172 tribution. By using this method, the background events in  
 173 laser gamma can be deducted to obtain the energy spectrum  
 174 distribution of laser gamma, as shown by the red line in Fig. 1  
 175 (b). Using the method can reduce the measurement time of  
 176 the experiment and improve the utilization of beam time. All  
 177 spectrometers on the experimental station can also use this  
 178 method to deduct background.

179 To successfully conduct experiments on the station, it is  
 180 necessary to accurately obtain the gamma spectrum distribu-  
 181 tion of each laser angle, so measuring the gamma spectrum is  
 182 very important. Monoenergetic gamma sources of 6.13 MeV,  
 183 9.17 MeV, 10.76 MeV, and 17.6 MeV were obtained by bom-  
 184 barding  $^{19}\text{F}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{27}\text{Al}$ , and  $^7\text{Li}$  targets with proton sources  
 185 from the Chinese Institute of Atomic Energy to calibrate the

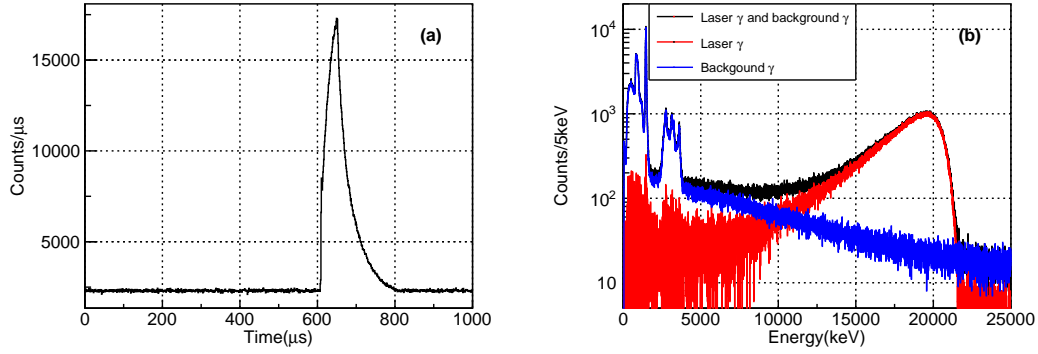


Fig. 1. (Color online) (a) The time distribution of laser gamma and background gamma within a cycle.(b) Energy spectrum distribution of laser gamma and background gamma measured using LaBr<sub>3</sub>.

LaBr<sub>3</sub> detector, which was used for gamma spectrum [49–52]. The response of single energy gamma rays in the LaBr<sub>3</sub> detector was simulated using Geant4 software [53] and compared with calibration data. They showed good agreement in detection efficiency and energy deposition spectrum distribution. By simulating the response function of single energy gamma rays in LaBr<sub>3</sub> detector, the response matrix of LaBr<sub>3</sub> detector to gamma rays can be obtained. Using the response matrix, we develop a software for inverse solving laser gamma spectroscopy based on Bayesian theory [54].

The black line in Fig. 2 (a) represents the gamma spectrum of LaBr<sub>3</sub> measured at a laser angle of 145°, while the blue line represents the result of the inverse solved gamma spectrum folded the response matrix. Their good agreement indicates that the inverse solved gamma spectrum is reliable. The result of the inverse solved gamma spectrum obtained using the software is shown in Fig. 2 (b), and its FWHM is 4.6%.

## B. Collimators and Attenuator

The coarse collimator is located 18 m away from the laser electron collision point and has ten different sizes of apertures, namely 0-5 mm, 8 mm, 10 mm, 20 mm and 30 mm. The fine collimator is 36 m away from the collision point, and its aperture can be continuously changed between 0 and 40 mm [39]. The attenuator is composed of 8 copper blocks with different thicknesses (1×200 mm, 3×100 mm, 2×50 mm, 1×25 mm and 1×15 mm) and diameters of 50 mm. The coarse collimator and fine collimator jointly adjust the energy bandwidth and beam spot size of the gamma beam, while the attenuator adjusts the beam flux to meet the requirements of nuclear physics, irradiation experiments and detector calibration.

## C. Experimental station

There are three types of detectors in the experimental station, namely gamma detectors, neutron detectors, and charged

particle detectors. The gamma detector consists of two HPGe detectors with a diameter of 80 mm and a thickness of 90 mm, two CLOVER detectors composed of four crystals with a diameter of 50 mm and a thickness of 70 mm [40], eight LaBr<sub>3</sub> detectors with a diameter of 76.2 mm and a thickness of 101.6 mm, and one BGO detector with a diameter of 76.2 mm and a thickness of 200 mm as the beam monitor detector. The energy spectrum and flux of the beam are mainly measured using BGO and LaBr<sub>3</sub> detectors. There are 20 EJ-301 fast neutron detectors with a diameter of 127 mm and a thickness of 50.8 mm, 6 <sup>3</sup>He tubes with a diameter of 25.4 mm and an effective length of 500 mm, and 20 <sup>3</sup>He tubes with a diameter of 50.8 mm and an effective length of 500 mm. The pressure value of all <sup>3</sup>He tubes is 2 atmospheres. Charged particle detectors include six Frisch-grated ionization chambers (FGIC) with a height of 72 mm and a thickness of 64 mm, four 65 μm and two 100 μm thick single-sided silicon microstrip detectors, four 300 μm and two 500 μm double-sided silicon microstrip detectors, and six sets of sensitive area 64 mm × 64 mm cesium iodide array with a thickness of 20 mm. These charged particle detectors are combined to form a charged particle telescope system for identifying light charged particles such as p, d, t, <sup>3</sup>He and α.

The experimental station has a vacuum chamber with a diameter of 1000 mm and a height of 800 mm. Its static vacuum can reach 10<sup>-6</sup> millibars and its leakage rate is less than 1×10<sup>-11</sup> Pa·m<sup>3</sup>/s.

## D. Electronics and Data-acquisition system

The data acquisition system of SLEGS experimental station mainly consists of two types: one is the CoMPASS waveform digital data acquisition system [41], and the other is the MVME of Mesytec waveform digital data acquisition system [42]. According to different detector signals, each type of acquisition system has two different acquisition modes. The CoMPASS data acquisition system has Pulse Shape Discrimination (PSD) mode and Pulse Height Analysis (PHA) mode, while the MVME of Mesytec data acquisition system has Charge to Digital Converter (QDC) mode and Standard

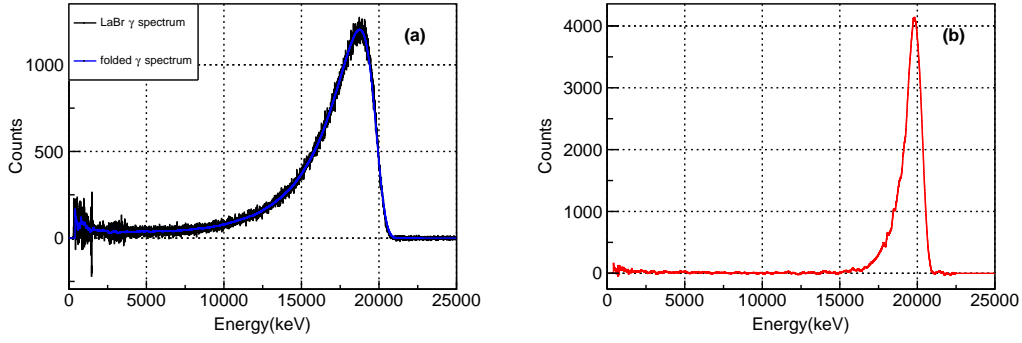


Fig. 2. (Color online) (a) Comparison between folded spectrum and experimental LaBr<sub>3</sub> spectrum at a laser angle of 145°. (b) The inverse solved gamma spectrum distribution at 145°.

Charge sensitive Preamplifier (SCP) mode. The PSD and QDC modes correspond to several hundred nanosecond pulse signals output by photomultiplier tubes and the PHA and SCP modes correspond to several to tens of microseconds of signals output by pre-amplifiers or others. The CoPASS data acquisition system consists of 6 V1725s digitizers with a sampling frequency of 250MHz and 8 V1730s digitizers with a sampling frequency of 500MHz. The Mesytec data acquisition system consists of 4 MDPP-16 digitizers and 1 MDPP-32 digitizer.

The acquisition control interface of the data acquisition system CoPASS mainly consists of five parts. The first part is the Run ID, where the user can set the name of the saved file and choose whether to automatically add the file's serial number. The second part is acquisition settings, which is to set the acquisition mode. There are two options: list only and wave mode, namely not saving waveform and saving waveform mode. The acquisition time can be set, and the configuration file can be selected. The third part is board buffers saving, which allows the user to choose whether to save the data of the board, mainly for offline data processing. The fourth part is data saving settings (List Saving). The user can choose to save raw data, unfiltered data, or filtered data. The format for saving data is generally ROOT, and the user can choose to limit the file size. The user can choose one file for one channel or one file for all channels, and choose whether to sort events. The energy format can choose ADC or scale values or both. The fifth part is spectra saving settings. The user can choose to save the spectrum at the end of the acquisition, or save the spectrum for a certain period of time, or not save the spectrum. The user can choose the data format for saving the spectrum, and choose to save one or more of the four spectra of Energy, PSD, Time distribution and  $\Delta T$ .

The main parameters set in this acquisition system CoPASS include polarity, discrimination mode, QDC Gate, Short Gate, and Pregate in PSD mode, rise time, flat top and pole zero in PHA mode. The EJ-301 neutron detector can achieve a time resolution of 230 ps using CFD discrimination, while the LaBr<sub>3</sub> detector can achieve a time resolution of 690 ps.

The control interface of the data acquisition system

Mesytec mainly consists of four parts. The first part is the data acquisition control interface, whose main functions are to start or stop data acquisition, set the connection mode with data acquisition electronics, select whether to record data, set the time for data acquisition, set the name of the file for data recording, and select whether the file for recording data is divided by time period or file size. The second part is the VME electronics parameter configuration interface, whose main function is to set the waveform digitizers used for acquisition, set their addresses to be consistent with the hardware settings, set the firmware mode to be consistent with the hardware settings, and set the integration and differential time for signal time filtering, shaping time, rise time, decay time, etc. The third part is the data analysis interface, whose main function is to select the data source to be analyzed, perform necessary logical operations, and generate visualized one-dimensional or two-dimensional histograms. The fourth part is the Log interface, which mainly outputs information during data acquisition operations, such as the time when acquisition started and the configured electronic parameters, the time when acquisition stopped, etc. If an error occurs during the configuration process or during the acquisition process, it will be displayed in red text on this interface, and the reason for the error can be found from this information.

### III. EXPERIMENTAL SPECTROMETERS

The detailed knowledge of photonuclear reaction data is great significance for various applications, such as astrophysical applications, medical-isotope production and radiation-shielding design, nuclear-waste transmutation, safeguards and inspection technologies, physics and technology of fission reactors (the influence of photonuclear reactions on the neutron balance) and fusion reactors (plasma diagnostics and shielding-activation calculations), analyses of absorbed dose in the human body during radiotherapy and radiation-transport calculations. According to the products detected in the photonuclear experiment, the experiment can be divided into five types.



### A. Nuclear Resonance Fluorescence (NRF) spectrometer

The NRF spectrometer is nuclear resonance fluorescence experiments limited below neutron threshold, which only detect gamma rays generated in the reaction. The NRF spectrometer mainly measures the energy and angular distribution of the de-excited gamma rays generated in nuclear reactions, using coincidence to determine the energy level states of nuclei. The spectrometer mainly consists of 2 HPGe detectors and 2 CLOVER detectors, with a total of 8 signals output through pre-amplifiers. Therefore, the data acquisition system of the spectrometer uses Mesytec's SCP mode. Fig. 3 is the 3D model and the picture of the nuclear resonance fluorescence spectrometer. The distance between the front surface of these detectors and the beam center can be adjusted from 10 mm to 80 mm. To facilitate the measurement of polarization experiments, the position of the detectors can be rotated along the beam axis. In addition, other gamma detectors such as  $\text{LaBr}_3$  can also be added to the NRF spectrometer to improve detection efficiency [43].

Nuclear resonance fluorescence can be applied to non-intrusively interrogate a region of space and measure the isotopic content of materials in that space to find any element heavier than helium. The prospect of NRF as a non-destructive analysis (NDA) technique in safety applications lies in its potential for directly quantifying specific isotopes in the target analysis. This technology involves irradiating materials to intense photon beams and detecting scattered photons with isotopic specific discrete energy distributions. The interrogating photons with energy between 2 and 8 MeV, are the most penetrating probe and are effective when the isotopes of interest are shielded by steel or other materials.

The research based on NRF used two detection schemes, namely scattering and transmission methods. In both methods, interrogation photons are used to induce resonance absorption, while de-excited photons are detected directly in the backward scattering position or indirectly in the forward self absorption position. The investigated object is placed in the beam, and resonant photons are detected in the backward scattering position by detectors located off-beam in scattering experiments.

It is worth mentioning that NRF-NDA technology can be used for various other applications that require isotope identification. For instance, some suggest applying this technology to cultural heritage research. The penetrability of  $\gamma$  will make it possible to study bulk objects, complex archaeological artifacts, and artworks. With the increase of beam intensity, these NDA methods will be further developed.

### B. Flat-Efficiency Neutron Detector (FED) spectrometer

The FED spectrometer is used for the experiments that exceed the neutron threshold, which only detect the neutrons produced in the reaction. The FED spectrometer mainly consists of 26  $^3\text{He}$  neutron tube detectors embedded in a 450 mm  $\times$  450 mm  $\times$  550 mm polyethylene moderator. There is a layer of 2 mm cadmium and a layer of 50 mm polyethylene

on the outer surface of the moderator. The neutron tubes are divided into three rings, with radii of 65 mm, 110 mm, and 175 mm for each ring. The first ring has 6 neutron tubes with a diameter of 25.4 mm. The second and third rings have 8 and 12 neutron tubes with a diameter of 50.8 mm, respectively. The signal of the neutron tube is output by the pre-amplifier, so the data acquisition system of the spectrometer uses the SCP mode of the Mesytec acquisition system. Fig. 4 is the 3D model and the picture of the flat efficiency neutron spectrometer. Its detection efficiency with californium source calibration is 42.1%. This spectrometer is mainly used for measuring the photoneutron cross-section, but it cannot accurately determine the energy of neutrons [44].

Photonneutron cross-section measurement is based on the slow down, i.e., thermalization of neutrons, which are then converted into charged particles using a neutron detector. The neutron multiplicity of moderated neutrons is measured in the experiment. There are two different techniques used to estimate the number of measured neutrons, namely flatness efficiency [45] and ring-ratio techniques [46]. This spectrometer adopts a combination of flat efficiency and ring-ratio technology.

The outermost ring is relatively more sensitive to high-energy neutrons than the innermost ring because there is more moderate material between the outermost detector and the target. Therefore, the ratio of the number of neutrons detected in the outermost ring to the number of neutrons detected in the innermost ring, known as the ring ratio, varies with the variation of the average neutron energy. The goal of flat efficiency technology is to directly measure neutron multiplicity. The main design idea is to place the neutron counter in a moderator in such a way that for energy up to 7 MeV, the detection efficiency does not depend on the neutron kinetic energy. Not only does it require a flat efficiency over a wide energy range, but it also requires high detection efficiency for reactive neutrons.

It is impossible to achieve a constant detection efficiency of the FED spectrometer with the energy of neutrons. Therefore, we first use the ring ratio method to determine the energy of neutrons, and then determine the detection efficiency of the FED spectrometer based on the variation of detection efficiency with the energy of neutrons. Based on the detection efficiency of the FED spectrometer, the multiplicity of neutrons is ultimately determined.

### C. Neutron time-of-flight (TOF) spectrometer

The experiment of the neutron time of flight spectrometer is similar to the second one, but requires neutron gamma coincidence measurements. Fig. 5 (a) is the structural design diagram of the neutron time of flight spectrometer, and its photo is shown in (b). The lanthanum bromide gamma detector is located below the target in the opposite direction of the beam, 30 cm away from the target. The EJ301 fast neutron detector is located above the target in the opposite direction of the beam, at a distance of 150 cm from the target. The gamma detector provides the start time of the event, while the

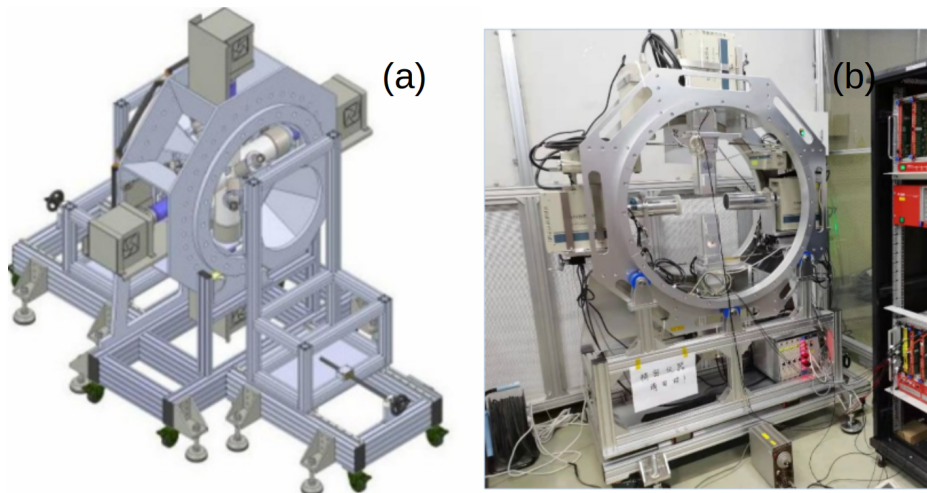


Fig. 3. (Color online) (a) 3D model of the nuclear resonance fluorescence spectrometer.(b)The nuclear resonance fluorescence spectrometer.

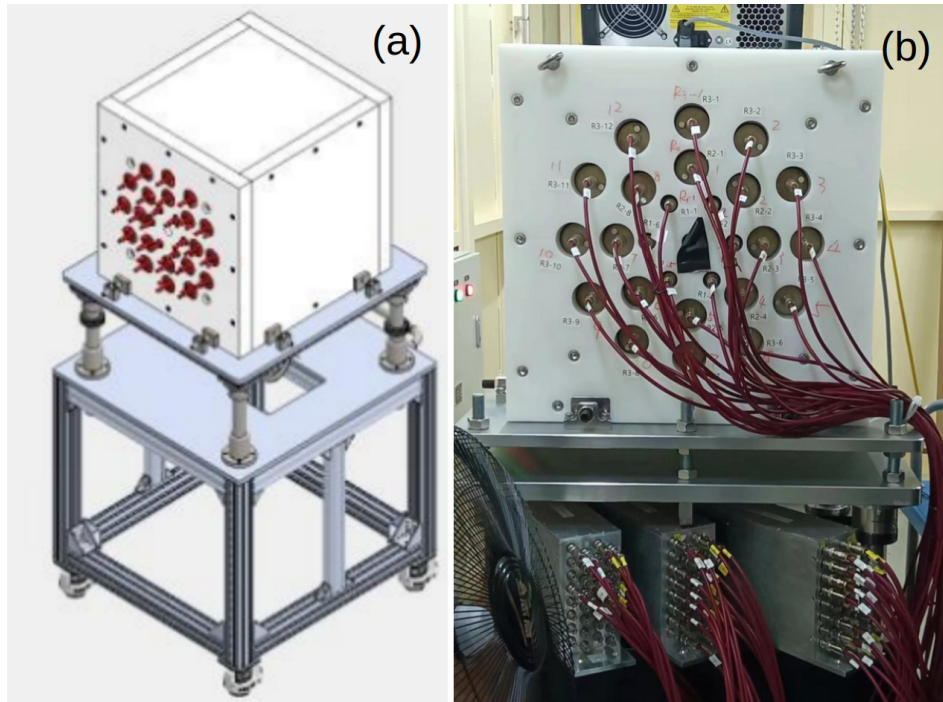


Fig. 4. (Color online) (a) 3D model of the Flat-Efficiency Neutron Detector spectrometer.(b)The Flat-Efficiency Neutron Detector spectrometer.

neutron detector provides the end time of the event, thus obtaining the flight time of the neutron. The energy of neutrons produced in photoneutron reactions can be obtained from the flight time of neutrons. The neutron time of flight spectrometer mainly consists of 8  $\text{LaBr}_3$  detectors and 20 EJ301 neutron detectors, with a total of 28 signals. These signals are short pulse signals output by photomultiplier tubes. Therefore, the data acquisition system of the neutron time of flight spectrometer utilizes the PSD mode of the CoPASS data acquisition system. The data acquisition system uses the A3818 and V2718 fiber optic bridge mode to connect the data acquisition hardware with computer software.

Two V1730S waveform digitizers with a sampling frequency of 500MHz are selected to collect the detector signal and perform analog-to-digital conversion. Two digitizers need to synchronize their clocks to achieve neutron gamma coincidence measurement. This spectrometer can achieve a time resolved half maximum width of 1 ns to 1.5 ns. Therefore, high neutron energy accuracy measurement can be achieved.

This spectrometer can determine the partial energy level states of certain nuclei in photonuclear reactions. The types, granularity, and positions of neutron and gamma detectors in

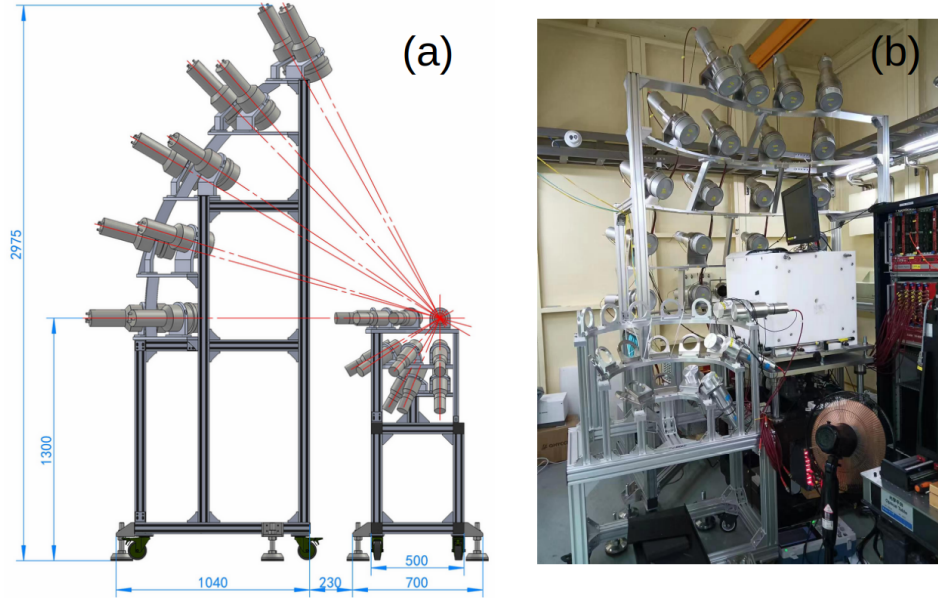


Fig. 5. (Color online) (a) Structural design diagram of the neutron time-of-flight spectrometer.(b)The neutron time-of-flight spectrometer.

the spectrometer can be redesigned according to experimental needs, such as polarization experiments [47]. To measure the angular distribution of neutrons, the angle of the  $\gamma$  photons's linearly polarized plane is tuned by changing the polarization plane of incident laser.

#### D. Light charged particle (LCP) spectrometer

The light charged particle spectrometer is used for the experiments that exceed the threshold of proton or other light charged particle, mainly detecting various light charged particles. Fig. 6 (a) and (b) show the 3D model of the light charged particle spectrometer and the on-site test photo, respectively. Fig. 6 (c) is the layout diagram of the design scheme for the light charged particle spectrometer. Gamma beam incident in the positive direction along the Y-axis. The entire spectrometer is placed in a vacuum target chamber. The spectrometer in the figure consists of four particle telescope systems, which are placed at different angles on both sides of the beam, at a distance of 25 cm from the target. Each particle telescope system consists of a frisch-grated ionization chamber, a silicon microstrip detector, and a nine unit cesium iodide detector array. Each telescope is an  $\Delta E - \Delta E - E$  light charged particle identification system that can identify particles such as proton, deuterium, tritium,  $^3\text{He}$ , and  $\alpha$ . The spectrometer is mainly used for nuclear physics experiments studying the structure of nuclei clusters [48].

#### E. Photon activation analysis spectrometer

The photon activation analysis spectrometer is designed for offline measurement of gamma activation experiments, mea-

suring the gamma generated by product decay. The study of medical isotopes requires the method of photon activation analysis. The experimental station has designed and constructed a photon activation analysis spectrometer consisting of a HPGe detector with a diameter of 67mm and a length of 65mm. The background counting rate of the spectrometer can reach 5 counts per second. Fig. 7 shows the background spectrum measured by the HPGe detector in a shielded cavity.

The research of SLEGS in the field of medical radioactive isotopes will focus on evaluation of the specific activity yields for medical radioactive isotopes produced in different photonuclear reactions and detailed cross-section calculations. Design experimental research to search for new production routes for medical radioactive isotopes, such as measurement of the specific activity of medical radioactive isotopes produced in photonuclear reactions, and measuring the production of medical radioactive isotopes of interest ( $\gamma, p$ ) and ( $\gamma, n$ ) cross section of the reaction and finding the doorway state for population of isomer in medical radioactive isotopes of interest.

#### IV. TEST EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS OF SLEGS

The photoneutron reaction cross-sections of targets such as  $^{197}\text{Au}$  and  $^{159}\text{Tb}$  have been measured using the flat efficiency neutron detector spectrometer and preliminary data processing has been carried out. The measurement results are in good agreement with those of other international laboratories. The ( $\gamma, n$ ) reaction of  $^{209}\text{Pb}$  target was tested using a neutron time of flight spectrometer. Twenty EJ301 neutron detectors were used in the experiment, with a distance of 150 cm from the target. Six  $\text{LaBr}_3$  detectors were used, with a distance of 30 cm from the target. The neutron time-of-flight





Fig. 6. (Color online) (a) 3D model of the light charged particle spectrometer. (b) The photo of the light charged particle spectrometer testing site. (c) Schematic drawing of the light charged particle spectrometer. The blue block represents the screen ionization chamber, the green thin layer represents the Si detector, and the red block represents the CsI detector.

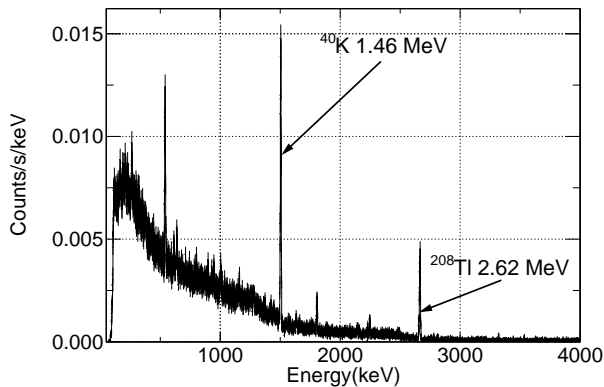


Fig. 7. The Background Spectra of HPGe Measurement.

spectrum measured in the experiment ranges from 40 to 200 ns. The peaks of 569.6 keV, 897.3 keV of product  $^{207}\text{Pb}$ , and 803.1 keV of product  $^{206}\text{Pb}$  were clearly distinguished in the gamma spectrum. The gamma flux measured at various laser incidence angles using the photon activation analysis spectrometer is consistent with the flux measured using the  $\text{LaBr}_3$  detector. Experiments on the NRF spectrometer and the LCP spectrometer are also ongoing and planned.

## V. CONCLUSION

The SLEGS beamline at SSRF is a powerful platform to investigate the GDR, PDR and MDR for research in field of the

s-process and p-process nucleosynthesis, nuclear transmutation and so on. At present, photon-induced nuclear reaction data can be collected in neutron FED spectrometer and neutron TOF spectrometer methods. In addition, gamma NRF spectrometer and LCP spectrometer methods will be gradually available to users in the future.

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